

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EUR-25

RSR-01 /174 W

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R 140615 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0445

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1245

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CM, CH, JA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AHIDJO RETURNS FROM CHINA AND FAR EAST

REF: A. YAOUNDE 0963 B. LIBREVILLE 0278

PRESIDENT AHIDJO WAS GIVEN AN EXPANSIVE WELCOME WHEN HE RETURNED APRIL 12 FROM A FAR EAST TOUR THAT HAD BEGUN ON MARCH 24. SCHOOLS AND OFFICES WERE CLOSED AND CROWDS WERE MASSED ALONG THE AIRPORT ROUTE FOR TWO HOURS BEFORE THE PLANE TOUCHED DOWN. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE REGIME MEANT TO PORTRAY THE VISIT - ESPECIALLY THE STAY IN CHINA - AS AN IMPORTANT EVENT, A TRIBUTE TO THE STANDING OF AHIDJO AND CAMEROON ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

2. REITERATION WAS GIVEN ON THIS OCCASION TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN PEKING. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS IN FACT QUITE A BLAND DOCUMENT WHICH, TAKING NOTE OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE WORLD POLITICAL CLIMATE RECENTLY, REAFFIRMED THE ATTACHMENT OF CHINA AND CAMEROON TO THE THIRD WORLD AND TO THIRD WORLD PRINCIPLES AND GREETED WITH SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY AFRICAN FIGHTERS AGAINST THEIR PORTUGUESE AND WHITE AFRICAN

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OPPRESSORS.

3. SOMEWHAT MORE ENLIGHTENING WAS THE INTERVIEW AHIDJO GAVE THE CAMEROON PRESS AGENCY AS HE LEFT CHINA ON APRIL 9. AHIDJO DECLARED THAT WITH CHINA ASSUMING ITS RIGHTFUL GLOBAL ROLE THE THIRD WO, A FEW PEOPLE BEGAN TO DRIFT BACK INTO THE FOREST. SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, THE LOCAL VC HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE REMAINING ALONG THE ROAD TO DO LIKEWISE.

4. THE VC INFILTRATED INTO THE GVN AREA AND KIDNAPPED FIFTEEN PSDF MARCH 9. THESE PSDF, ALONG WITH AT LEAST FORTY OTHERS ABDUCTED FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE DISTRICT, ARE NOW AT WORK IN THE HUU DINH FOREST CONSTRUCTING HOMES. THE CAMERA CREWS ARE BUSY FILMING THE ACTIVITY.

5. RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THE VC PLAN SHORTLY TO GATHER ENOUGH LOCAL GUERRILLAS TOGETHER TO BURN DOWN THE GVN SPONSORED SETTLEMENT AND TO FORCE THE PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THE VC " SETTLEMENT" IN THE FOREST.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN ITS LONG HISTORY OF VIET CONG ACTIVITY AND INFLUENCE, KIEN HOA HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY QUIET SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE GVN HAS SUCCEEDED IN EXTENDING ITS TERRITORIAL AND POPULATION CONTROL SIGNIFICANTLY. VC/ NVA FORCES HAVE DECREASED IN NUMBER AND EFFECTIVENESS. SINCE THE

CEASEFIRE THE GVN HAS MOVED INTO ONE OF THE PROVINCE' S MORE IMPORTANT VC BASE AREAS, AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY INSERTED A MULTI-BATTALION PRESENCE. DURING THE POST-CEASEFIRE PERIOD, KIEN HOA HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE PRESENT " BACK TO THE VILLAGE" CAMPAIGN IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE VC ATTEMPT TO REESTABLISH SOME MOMENTUM.
BARNES UNQUOTE
BUNKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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